Construction of Doboka Lumding National Highway in Assam

1503. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the earlier Government had recommended the proposals for construction of National Highway connecting from Doboka-Lanka-Lumding via Haflong-Silcher in Assam;

(b) if so, the details of action being taken by Government so far and the outcome thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be started; and

(d) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) This route was recommended by Shukla Commission for declaration as a new National Highway. However, the proposal can be considered alongwith proposals from other States, subject to inter-se priority and availability of funds.

Aggressive Campaign for Visakhapatnam Port Container Cargo

1504. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Visakhapatnam Port Trust propose to launch an aggressive campaign to project the port as a favourite destination for container cargo;

(b) the target set up to handle cargo and container traffic during the current fiscal year; and

(c) the progress of construction of multipurpose berth in this regard in the outer harbour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The Port has plans to develop container handling facilities.

(b) An aggregate Cargo Traffic Target of 36.00 Million Tonnes has been fixed which includes 1.50 lakh Tonnes of containerised cargo for the year 1998-99.

(c) The construction of multipurpose Berth in the outer harbour is in progress and is likely to be ready by 1999-2000.

Jetties Operating at Kandla Port

1505. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of jetties operating at Kandla Port at present;

(b) the number of jetties that are in actual operation there; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of jetties are not operating and not in working condition there; if so, the measures taken or proposed by Government in order to make all the jetties in working condition to clear the workload?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) At Kandla Port, in all there are seven berths to handle dry cargo and seven jetties to handle liquid cargo in operation.

(c) Does not arise as all the berths are operational.

Road Accidents on National Highway No. 3

1506. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highway No. 3 has a record of accident during 1996-97 between Mumbai and Nasik;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the road width is inadequate considering the volume and width of vehicles using the road connecting the major industrial cities Nasik and Mumbai; and

(c) whether Government propose to widen this strip on priority basis?